

13. (Four Times Amended) A system for ablating tissue within a body comprising

- a guide element for introduction into a body,
- at least one energy transmitting electrode defining an energy transmitting region on the guide element,
- an operator interface operable during an ablation procedure [and adapted to receive] that receives at least first and second predetermined input commands, and
- control means for [electronically] electrically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy, selectively [electronically] electrically altering the energy transmitting characteristics of the region to block transmission from portion of the region while allowing transmission from another portion of the region in response to the first input command, and [electronically] electrically varying the length of the region where transmission is allowed between a first non-zero length and a second non-zero length in response to the second input command.

28. (Three Times Amended) A system for ablating tissue within a body, comprising:

- a guide element for introduction into a body;
- a plurality of longitudinally spaced electrodes on the guide element; and
- [an operator interface operable during an ablation procedure and adapted to receive at least a first predetermined input command; and]

a controller, operably connected to the plurality of electrodes [, to the operator interface] and to a source of tissue ablating energy, [the controller being adapted to receive predetermined input commands from the operator interface and to electrically connect the plurality of electrodes to the source of tissue ablating energy,] the controller including

an operator interface operable during an ablation procedure that receives at least a first predetermined input command, and

switching means for selectively disconnecting at least one of the electrodes within the plurality of longitudinally spaced electrodes from the source of

I2 tissue ablating energy in response to the first predetermined input command such that two electrodes are electrically connected to the source of tissue ablating energy and the at least one disconnected electrode is between the two connected electrodes.

I3 ~~32.~~ (Twice Amended) A system as claimed in claim ~~28~~, wherein the operator interface [is adapted to receive] receives a second predetermined input command and the controller further includes polarity means for selectively altering transmission of energy from the electrodes between a unipolar ablation mode and a bipolar ablation mode in response to the second predetermined input command.

I4 ~~33.~~ (Four Times Amended) A system for ablating tissue within a body, comprising:

a guide element,

at least first, second and third contiguous electrodes carried by the guide element arranged such that the second electrode is located between the first and third electrodes, and

[an operator interface operable during an ablation procedure and adapted to receive at least first and second predetermined input commands,]

a control device [associated with the operator interface and] , including an operator interface that receives at least first and second predetermined input commands, operable in a first mode in response to the first input command to simultaneously electronically couple the first, second and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the first, second and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy, and operable in a second mode in response to the second input command to block transmission from one of the first, second and third electrodes while simultaneously electronically coupling the other of the first, second and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the other of the first, second and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy, and

an indifferent electrode adapted to be located on a patient,